THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" What are we to do, Sir? We go on complaining there is no rain and pray for it. When it comes we are upset. When it does not come, we object."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" That is not the matter, Sir . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have allowed a half-hour debate. No more discussion will be allowed."

Alleged death of Sri Pasupuleti Rangayya in police lock-up of Muthukur Police Station.

* 777-B *Q.*—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a person named Pasupuleti Rangayya of Kakeepalli, Nellore taluk, was arrested on 4th July 1953; whether he was produced before a Court of law subsequently and whether it is a fact that he was found dead in the Police lock up of Muthukur Police Station on 14th July 1953; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the father of the deceased made a representation to the Government about (*a*) and if so, what action was taken on the said representation?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*, & (*b*) Rangaiah concerned in Burglary Case Crime No. 146 of 1953, Muthukur Police Station, committed suicide in the station lock-up by hanging himself. Government have not received any representation as mentioned in the question. In connection with the question put by the hon. Member, inquiries were made and the facts ascertained are as follows :—

'There was a house-breaking in Kekupalli in Muthukur station limit on 4th July 1953. Rangaiah and two others were suspected. All of them were found to be away from their normal residences and absconding and on 13th July 1953 at about 2 p.m. the Sub-Inspector, Muthukur, traced Rangaiah at Nellore. When he was questioned, Rangaiah gave a statement which led to the recovery of almost the whole property lost. He was sent over to the police station in Muthukur, which he reached with a constable at about 9-30 p.m. After necessary formalities, he was put in the lock up at 10 p.m.

Between 5 and 6 a.m. on the 14th the sentry on duty found Rangaiah hanging inside the cell. The deceased appears to have used his lungi and another cloth for this purpose. As soon as this was noticed, the Joint Magistrate, Gudur, was informed, who arrived and made inquiries. The body was sent for post-mortem and the examination showed that there were no injuries excepting the ligature mark round the neck; the doctor gave his opinion that death was due to asphyxia as a result of hanging. The Joint Magistrate's report has not yet been received.

21st July 1953]

'The deceased was 25 years of age, labourer by occupation. He had been convicted before and was an unmarried person. Gold rings and silver chains worth Rs. 300 were recovered in Nellore on his information. These were some of the properties stolen and some more were found at Gundlapatam. The President of the local panchayat, the Board school headmaster of the place and the Medical Officer were the panchayatdars who gave the verdict of suicide. I do not think that at this stage I can give any more information'."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, in view of the fact that this lock-up has been the scene of long detentions and molestations of arrested persons, I would request that there should be a half-hour debate upon this very important matter. They are becoming common in Nellore and in many other places." 8 40 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—" I refuse to allow a half-hour debate on this question."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" The Government are dealing with such matters all the 360 days. Previous incidents were probably party matters but this is a regular theft case."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO:—" May I know, Sir, whether this is not a case where a man was arrested and subsequently found dead and then it is reported as a case of suicide?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, I cannot help partisan views being taken by hon. Members."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Sir, the Hon. Chief Minister said that on receipt of the short notice question, Government made enquiries. I want to know whether cases of suicide inside police lock-ups are not reported to Government, as soon as they occur."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, they are reported and the report in the routine way that has been referred to by Sri Viswanatham did come. That report reached my hands in the usual way and I may tell hon. Members that I read all these reports. As soon as this report was received, I marked it for an enquiry on 18th July. The report was received on 18th July because the Inspector-General of Police got the report on 14th July and it was sent to me in the usual course; I was able to go through it on the 18th July and the same day I marked it for an enquiry. In the meanwhile, the question has come."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—" Sir, in view of the frequency of such suicides in police lock-ups, will the Government examine the need for removal of instruments helpful to such suicides from the buildings of police lock-ups?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, it is not right to assume that they are numerous when compared with the totality of the cases enquired into by the Police and the

[21st July 1953

percentage of successful enquiries. If hon. Members will only try to find out and detect one theft case and get the stolen jewels back, they would understand the work that the Police have to do. It is wrong to assume from the reports that the total number is great; the number is insignificant when we have the background of the actual conditions in our mind.''

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Have the Government made a note of the number of occasions on which questions of alleged suicides in Police lock-ups have come up before the House and have Government taken any measures to find out the truth or otherwise of such suicides in the police lock-ups? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I have gone into it, Sir, with particular attention and concern also. Hon. Members imagine that every allegation against the Government is true. It is not so. As a matter of fact, there are really cases of suicides also. If hon. Members remember that the man was unmarried, was of 25 years of age and committed a theft, that it was successfully discovered and the properties recovered from him, they can understand the motive for suicide.''

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I ask, Sir, in view of the psychological explanations given by the Hon. Chief Minister, why the man, when he was first convicted, decided not to put an end to his life by suicide? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The previous conviction indicates the weakness of the man for theft. But that does not mean that he lost his self-importance and dignity.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, has the Hon. Chief Minister come to the conclusion that that must be a case of suicide on *a priori* grounds of psychological make up of the mind? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I have come to the conclusion in my own mind so far as this case is concerned from the psychology of the accused. The answers that I got for the questions put by me to the local authorities and the verdict of the very reliable panchayatdars lead me to my opinion. I am waiting for the Joint Magistrate's report.''

SRI SAKA VENKATA RAO :—" ఖైదీలు పోలీసు లాకప్పులో ఉండినప్పుడు రాత్రింబగళ్లు వారికొరకు పోలీసు పహరా వుంటుందిగదా, అట్లాంటప్పుడు ఈ ఖైదీలు వురితీసుకోటానికి అవకాశం ఎట్లు కలిగిందో మంత్రిగారు తెలిపిస్తారా ? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, the whole matter will be gone into by the Joint Magistrate.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Chief Minister told us that the man committed suicide by hanging and he used his lungi and another piece of cloth for this purpose. Is it possible for Rangayya to get himself hanged with his lungi, if there were

no cross bars or other facilities in the lock-up? The existence of such facilities tempts these convicts to commit suicide. Will the Government take proper care to remove such tempting instruments in the lock-ups?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, the suggestion of the hon. Member is very useful and important. But the hon. Member is aware of the construction of lock-ups in the country side. They are generally tiled buildings and not modern terraced buildings. A tiled building must stand on trusses. Unfortunately, police lock-ups are not so well built as cinema houses."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, May I know, because the enquiry was carried on by the Police Department, whether the Government are prepared to order a fresh enquiry, a non-official enquiry, to go into the matter, as suicide in the lock-ups has become a general phenomenon, particularly in Andhra side, for, very recently, in my own constituency such incidents had happened?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, there is perhaps something in the emotional make up of the area concerned. Whether it is politicians or whether it is criminals or civil people, emotions really guide people."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am not concerned with that, Sir. The question is whether we can have a non-official enquiry?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, I emphatically say that it is impossible to deal with crime by a non-official enquiry. That would increase crimes two-fold."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, does the report show how many trusses that room contained and by what truss or rafter he hanged himself?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, Mr. Vinayakam's suggestion brought in the question of trusses and beams. As a matter of fact the report does not refer to it. The report refers only to the cloth which he used for binding round his neck and hanging by. It is assumed, as Mr. Vinayakam suggested, that there might have been a cross-bar. But there is no reference in the report to any truss or beam. They could not foresee all the details of the discussion here."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that he was arrested on the 4th and kept in the police custody from the 4th to the 13th?" 8-50 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"That is, Sir, a lawyer's question. But it is not a fact. As I have already said, he was arrested and sent at night to the police station. A defence vakil naturally says that he was arrested on the 4th and tortured till the 13th and that the police took so much time to kill him."

[21st July 1953

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" When was he first taken into the lock-up and on what date? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Hon. Members think of supplementary questions which they must put and do not listen to me. As I have already said, he reached the police station along with a police constable at about 9-30 p.m. and after necessary formalities he was put in the lock-up at 10 p.m. on that day."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Does the Hon. Chief Minister realize that the defence in this case is the police also because they have put in a false story of having arrested the man on the 13th and not on the 4th? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" This is not a new attitude. The Opposition puts the police always on the defence."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Is it not a fact that according to the version of the Hon. Chief Minister that the man has been taken to various places, he must have been arrested much earlier than the 13th at 9-30 p.m.? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Is it, Sir, denied by anyone that the stolen properties were found? I have given the most prominent emphasis in this case to the fact that the stolen properties found were of the total value of Rs. 300 including gold rings, etc. We cannot build a case of falsification of evidence on that basis."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Are the Government convinced that it is a genuine case of suicide after getting the report of genesis from the officers on duty? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am awaiting the report of the Joint Magistrate."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" On a point of order, Sir. While replying to the supplementary questions, the Hon. Chief Minister said that the Andhra area was emotional and that was why such cases of suicide were happening there. May I know, from you, Sir, whether the Hon. Chief Minister is in order in replying in that way. He might have some prejudices for particular areas and I do not mind. But I take strong objection to this insinuation and I would like the Chair to give a ruling, Sir."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I wish to be heard a minute, Sir, on that point. I would not have said it but for the hon. Member who put the question saying ' especially in the Andhra area and especially in my constituency."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" The point is how careful the Chief Minister should be in replying to questions. Surely, he wanted to insinuate a particular area. He might have his own prejudices. But is he justified in casting

21st July 1953]

insinuations on the floor of the House? If you, Sir, are convinced that he is not justified in saying so, I request that he should withdraw his remark."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" What is the point, Sir, of the hon. Member saying ' these things happen particularly in the Andhra area and in my area '? "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The point which Mr. Venkteswarlu raises is that in spite of provocation the Hon. Chief Minister should not say so."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I would myself have considered it a commonplace; but Member after Member, politician after politician and friend after friend have been pressing on me the emotional character of the Andhras and in fact they are putting many amendments on that basis."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The word ' emotional ' is not an insinuation. Sometimes everybody is emotional."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Whether the use of the word ' emotional ' is an insinuation or not is not the question. To say that a particular area is emotional is an insinuation. If we use such words, the Hon. Chief Minister will take strong exception."

SRI K KRISHNA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that a similar case has occurred in Tellicherry also and it is not peculiar to Andhra alone?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The hon. Member should correct his colleague, Mr. P. Venkateswarlu.'

Punishment of certain constables in Madras City.

* 778 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of constables in Madras City who have been discharged or removed from service after the 2nd of January 1953 up to date;

(*b*) the number of constables in Madras City who have been suspended and whose cases are still pending enquiry;

(*c*) the number of constables in the City who have been punished otherwise than either by dismissal, discharge from service or suspension; and

(*d*) the number of constables in the City who have been dismissed without any enquiry?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) to (*d*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" How many of the causes that inspired the police constables on a short term adventure were on

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 875–876 infra.